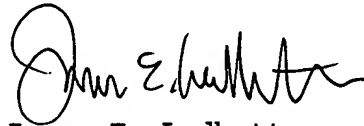


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment eliminates the multiple dependent claim status of claims 3, 4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 21-27, 29, 30, 32-39 and 41 in order to avoid the multiple dependent claim surcharge. Also, the improper multiple dependent claim status of claims 42 and 43 has been corrected.

Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

Date: February 8, 2006

JEL/spp

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. L7725.06103

STEVENS, DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.
Suite 850
1615 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 785-0100
Facsimile: (202) 408-5200